



Uncle Wiggily's Adventures

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IT WAS ALONG WHILE SINCE UNCLE WIGGILY HAD SKATED, BUT HE DID NOT FORGET HOW. NOR DID NURSE JANE. AS FOR THE FOX, JUST LOOK AT HIM! HAI HAI!

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Pictured by LANG CAMPBELL



"Oh, look, fellows and girls!" cried Sammie Littletail, the rabbit boy, as he was skating on the frozen duck-pond ocean one day. "Here comes Uncle Wiggily and Nurse Jane! Let's ask Uncle Wiggily if he will show us some new skating figures." The other animal boys and girls laughed. "I guess Uncle Wiggily is too old to skate," chattered Johnny Bushytail, the squirrel. "He'll fall down, and so will nurse Jane." Some of the others thought the same, and Lulu Wibblewobble, the duck girl, said: "If they do fall I hope they won't get hurt. Maybe Uncle Wiggily can skate!"



As Uncle Wiggily came to the pond he gave a laugh, the bunny rabbit gentleman did, and said: "I'm going to have a skate, Nurse Jane, and I want you to skate with me!" Nurse Jane answered: "Nonsense! We are too old and stiff to skate!" But Uncle Wiggily did not think so. He borrowed a pair of skates from one of the animal boys, and got another pair from one of the animal girls for Nurse Jane. "Now you sit on this log, Miss Fuzzy Wuzzy," said the bunny to his muskrat lady housekeeper. "I'll fasten your skates on for you, and then I'll put on mine. We'll have fun."



"Well, I guess we're all ready to show them how to skate," said Uncle Wiggily, as he took hold of Nurse Jane's paws and started with her out on the ice. "Oh, Wiggy! Do be careful!" squeaked Nurse Jane. "You know it is a long time since I have skated, and something might happen!" Uncle Wiggily laughed and said: "Nonsense! You'll soon be skating as well as you used to. Come on now, strike out as if you were in a race!" And while the animal children looked on and wondered if Uncle Wiggily really could skate, the bad fox came sneaking along, farther down the pond.



"There! What did I tell you!" cried Nurse Jane, as her feet slipped out from under her, skates and all. "I've fallen, Uncle Wiggily!" The rabbit gentleman said he was sorry. He helped Nurse Jane to get up, Sammie Littletail, the rabbit boy, pulling the muskrat lady on one side and a squirrel chap on the other. "We'll try once more," said Uncle Wiggily, cheerful like, as he twinkled his pink nose. And they were all so excited, watching Uncle Wiggily and Nurse Jane trying to skate, that no one saw the bad fox cracking a hole in the ice. I wonder why he is doing that?



"Oh, just look at Uncle Wiggily!" cried Billie Bushytail, after the rabbit gentleman had set Nurse Jane on her feet and helped her to the edge of the pond, where it wasn't so slippery. "Look at Uncle Wiggily skate!" the animal children said, "Oh!" and "Ah!" And the bunny gentleman kept on making all sorts of pretty figures on the ice. He made curlicues and twisty-tails. "I used to do that when I was young," said Nurse Jane. "I believe, with Uncle Wiggily to help me, I could still do some fancy skating. I'll try again." Uncle Wiggily kept on doing fancy stunts.



After Uncle Wiggily had made some grape-vines and huckleberry bushes and a few things like that on the ice with his skates, he gave a fine exhibition. With the points of the skates he carved on the ice these words: "Fancy skating taught. Professor Uncle Wiggily Longears." Then he made a low and poli' bow to Nurse Jane and said: "Perhaps you will try it again, Miss Fuzzy Wuzzy. I don't believe you will slip and fall this time." So Nurse Jane got ready for another skate, and the fox had the big hole all ready. I wonder who he thinks is going to fall in? I wonder!



After a few trials, Nurse Jane found that she could skate almost as well as she could when she was a young muskrat lady. She was no longer afraid of falling. She took hold of Uncle Wiggily's paws and he skated backward, pulling Nurse Jane along in front of him. "Uncle Wiggily is a better skater than I thought," said Sammie Littletail. The bad old fox, waiting near the hole he had broken in the ice, hugged himself with joy and hungeriness, and growled: "Oh! ho! Soon Uncle Wiggily and Nurse will fall in the cold, icy water and I can catch them and get their souse!"



All of a sudden, as Uncle Wiggily was skating along with the muskrat lady, Nurse Jane looked ahead. She saw where the fox had made a big hole in the ice to the water below. "Oh, Uncle Wiggily!" she cried. "Look out! There's a big hole right behind you!" Uncle Wiggily gave one glance behind him. "Ha! I'll show you how to get over that!" he cried. He gave a big, backward jump, pulling Nurse Jane with him, and through the air they sailed, right over the hole and to the safe and sound ice beyond. The bad old fox, waiting to catch the bunny, was so surprised that he sneezed.



Safely leaping over the hole, Uncle Wiggily and Nurse Jane landed on the ice just beyond it. But they came down so hard that they cracked the ice, and the cracks ran to where the fox was waiting. Into the cold, icy water he fell. "Oh, wow!" he howled. "I guess I'll get no rabbit souse this day!" Uncle Wiggily and Nurse Jane felt so jolly that they did a little dance on the ice, after jumping over the hole. Uncle Wiggily waved his hat and Nurse Jane blew kisses to the animal children. The fox did not have a good time at all. It served him right for trying to catch Uncle Wig.